

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0130

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, KU, SA

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF JEWISH RELIGION

REF: STATE 304653 OF DECEMBER 30, 1975.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL WITH TALAL ABU GHAZALEH AND DERAR ALGHANIM OWNER/PARTNERS OF TMP AGENTS (ME). COMPANY IS ONE OF TALALABU GHAZALEH AND ASSOCIATES GROUP WHICH IS BASICALLY AN ACCOUNTING FIRM WHICH HAS OFFICERS THROUGHOUT MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA. INCLUDING IN TAGA GROUP IS TALAL ABU GHAZALEH-PRICE WATERHOUSE MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP. TMP RIGISTERS TRADE MARKS, PATENTS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS ETC IN MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA.

2. REASON FOR USE OF SAUDI FORM, THEREFORE, WAS BECAUSE IN SPECIFIC CASE UNDER QUESTION A PATENT OR TRADE MARK WAS BEING REGISTERED IN SAUDI ARABIA. IT TRUE THAT TMP HOME OFFICE IS IN KUWAIT, AND THEIR ADDRESS APPEARS ON FORM, BUT TRANSACTION AND RELEVANT LAW INVOLVED WAS SAUDI AND NOT RPT NOT KUWAIT.

3. EMBOFF WAS SHOWN BOTH SAUDI AND KUWAITI FORMS USED BY TMP. SAUDI FORM, WHICH AS FAR AS TMP KNOWS IS CURRENT AUTHORIZED FORM, INCLUDES SEVERAL BOYCOTT-RELATED QUESTIONS INCLUDING WHETHER ONE OF QUOTE PROMOTERS UNQUOTE OF COMPANY IS QUOTE AN ISRAELI NATIONAL UNQUOTE. THROUGHOUT THIS PART OF FORM THERE NO RPT NO REFERENCES TO RELIGION OR USE OF WORD JEWISH; RATHER ALL REFERENCES ARE TO ACTIVITIES IN OR RELATIONSHIPS

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WITH ISRAEL. IN CONTRAST NONE OF THESE QUESTIONS APPEAR ON

KUWAITI FORM. THAT IS BECAUSE ABU GHAZALEH HAS BEEN ABLE
CONVINCE GOK THAT IT BETTER IF TMP CERTIFIES THAT APPLYING
COMLPANY NOT ON ARAB BLACKLIST RATHER THAN FOR COMPANY TO
DO SO. THUS, ABU GHAZALEH IS ABLE OBTAIN, USUALLY IN VERY PRO
FORMA MANNER, CERTIFICATION FROM LOCAL BOYCOTT
OFFICE THAT FOREIGN COMPANY NOT ON BOYCOTT LIST, AS RESULT
FOREIGN COMPANY DOES NOT ITSELF HAVE TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS
REGARDING DOING BUSINESS IN ISRAEL. TMP WOULD BE DELIGHTED
IF THEY COULD GET SAUDIS TO AGREE TO SIMILAR PROCEDURE, AND
THEY WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE ON HOW
THIS MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED.

4. COMMENT: BASED ON ABU GHAZALEH'S AND ALGHANIM'S REMARKS
IT WOULD SEEM TRADITIONAL KUWAITI HON-DESCRIMINATION BY
RELIGION REMAINS CASE. THIS ALSO CONFIRMED BY NEWLY APPOINTED
UNDERSECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WHEN EMBOFFS MADE
RECENT COURTESY CALL ON HIM.

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